



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,258	10/27/2003	Gregory P. Brown	81085388 (201-0709)	4121
28415	7590	09/02/2005	EXAMINER	
PRICE, HENEVELD, COOPER, DEWITT & LITTON, LLP 695 KENMOOR S.E. P. O. BOX 2567 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49501-2567			LIEU, JULIE BICHNGOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2636	

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/694,258	BROWN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Julie Lieu	2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's response filed May 23, 2005. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosomi et al. (US Patent No. 6,352,318).

Claim 9:

Hosomi discloses a wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:

- a. a steerable wheel;
- b. a wheel position indicator 7 having an on state and an off state (inherent), the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable

wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state

- c. a controller (front page figure, inside dotted line)
- d. wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the on state when the vehicle is in an off road condition and places the wheel position indicator into the off state when the vehicle is not in the off road condition.

See col. 5, lines 34-47.

Claim 13:

The position of the steerable wheel includes an angle of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

Claim 14:

The position of the steerable wheel includes a left or right position of the steerable wheel relative to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

Claim 15:

Hosomi discloses a wheel position indication system for a vehicle, comprising:

- a. a steerable wheel;
- b. a wheel position indicator 7 having an on state and an off state (inherent), the wheel position indicator providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the on state, the wheel position indicator not providing a visual indication of the position of the steerable wheel when the wheel position indicator is in the off state

Art Unit: 2636

- c. a controller (front page figure, inside dotted line),
- d. wherein the controller places the wheel position indicator into the on state when the steerable wheel has a slip angle above or equal a predetermined amount and places the wheel position indicator into the off state when the steerable wheel has a slip angle below a predetermined amount.

See col. 3, line 32-50 and col. 4, lines 48-60.

Claim 19:

The rejection of claim 19 recites the rejection of claim 13.

Claim 20:

The rejection of claim 16 recites the rejection of claim 14.

Claims 1 and 2:

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 recites the rejection of claim 15 except they are method claims.

Claims 1 and 3:

The rejection of claims 1 and 3 recites the rejection of claim 9 except they are method claims.

Claim 7

The rejection of claim 7 recites the rejection of claim 13, except it is a method claim.

Claim 8:

The rejection of claim 8 recites the rejection of claim 14, except it is a method claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 6, 10, 12, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosomi et al. (US Patent No. 6,352,318).

Claims 10:

The visual indicator 7 of the position of the steerable wheel includes a display 5. Hosomi fails to clearly disclose the location of the display. Nonetheless, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to place the display in any convenient location within the field of view of the driver since the function of the device would not thereby be modified.

Claim 12:

Though it is not clear whether the display in the Hosomi is a digital display. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a digital display in Hosomi because it would still serve the same purpose.

Claim 16:

The rejection of claim 16 recites the rejection of claim 10.

Claim 18:

The rejection of claim 16 recites the rejection of claim 12.

Claim 6:

The rejection of claim 6 recites the rejection of claim 12, except it is a method claim.

6. Claims 4, 5, 11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosomi et al. (US Patent No. 6,352,318) in view of Shiraishi (US Patent No. 5,203,420).

Art Unit: 2636

Claim 11:

Hosomi fails to disclose a shutter wheel connected to a steering wheel column, and the controller in communication with sensors reading light emitted through the apertures of the shutter wheel to determine the position of the steerable wheel. Nevertheless, such steering wheel sensor device is old and well known in the art as taught in Shiraishi. In light of this teaching, a skilled artisan would have readily recognized using such device in the Hosomi system to detect the steering position of the steering wheel because it is conventional in the art and such information would be useful in deriving the wheel position.

Claim 17:

The rejection of claim 16 recites the rejection of claim 11.

Claims 4 and 5:

The rejection of claims 4 and 5 recites the rejection of claim 11, except they are method claims.

Remarks

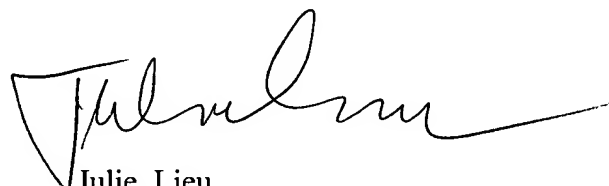
7. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie Lieu whose telephone number is 571-272-2978. The examiner can normally be reached on MaxiFlex.

Art Unit: 2636

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-2978.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Julie Lieu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2636

Aug 10, 05